



NOAA

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Contact: Tim Halbach
262-965-5061 ext. 726

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St. Alphonsus Catholic School becomes a National Weather Service StormReady Supporter

National Weather Service officials have recognized St. Alphonsus Catholic School as a StormReady® Supporter. The StormReady Supporter program is part of the larger StormReady program, a grass roots program designed to help communities establish severe weather safety plans and actively promote weather awareness. StormReady communities have made a strong commitment to implement the infrastructure and systems needed to save lives and protect property when severe weather strikes.

Tim Halbach, Warning Coordination Meteorologist of the National Weather Service forecast office in Milwaukee, will present St. Alphonsus Catholic School with a certificate during a private ceremony at the school's committee meeting on Tuesday, April 17th.

"St. Alphonsus has taken a very proactive approach to ensure that the school is well prepared for when hazardous weather hits. Tim Lethlean has done a great job with making sure that the school is receiving severe weather information and then dispatching it throughout the school in a quick manner. The school has done a number of drills to try and minimize the time that it takes for students and staff to get to their safe zones. The parents of the students at St. Alphonsus should be very happy with the steps that have been taken to create a safe school when the weather is at its worst," said Tim Halbach, Warning Coordination Meteorologist.

"In addition to our school of 3K through 8th grades, the facility hosts a variety of functions including athletic events, scouting activities and more. With a threat of severe weather possible at any time, a solid response plan is a necessity. The StormReady program took us from the 'usual' shelter common sense to a comprehensive plan by looking at the whole picture; including our communication capabilities, the physical structure of our shelter space, and how we interpret and respond to alerts from the National Weather Service. The StormReady Supporter certification sends the message to our students, parents, and staffs that preparation made at St. Alphonsus matches up with the best available guidance. This recognition reinforces our commitment to safety; and shows that we aren't letting severe weather preparedness lose its focus amid the variety of threats facing educational environments today," said Tim Lethlean, St. Alphonsus School Safety Coordinator.

To be recognized as StormReady Supporter, an organization must promote the principles and most guidelines of the StormReady program, which includes maintaining a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center; having more than one way to receive National Weather Service warnings and to alert the public; monitoring local weather and flood conditions; conducting community preparedness programs; and ensuring hazardous weather and flooding are addressed in formal emergency management plans, which include training [SKYWARN](#)® weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

The National Weather Service's Milwaukee Forecast Office, located in Dousman, Wi., is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for about 3 million people in 20 Wisconsin counties. Join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Working with partners, the [National Weather Service](#) is building a [Weather-Ready Nation](#) to support community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather.

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